REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,768,525 to Paolini et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Paolini et al. reference does not include all of the features defined in independent Claim 1. Specifically, the Paolini et al. reference does not disclose an illumination device that includes, *inter alia*, optical waveguides each having "a plurality of separate light diffusion reflecting layers thereon" (emphasis added), as defined in Claim 1. Nor does the Paolini et al. reference disclose an illumination device that includes, *inter alia*, "a plurality of light sources respectively disposed at ends of each of the plurality of optical waveguides," as defined in independent Claim 1.

One example of an embodiment of the invention defined in Claim 1 is shown in Applicants' Figure 1, which includes, among other things, a plurality of optical waveguides (20 and 21) that each include a plurality of *separate* light diffusion reflecting *layers thereon.* More specifically, optical waveguide 20 includes light diffusion reflecting *layers* 30a and 30b *thereon*, which, as can be seen in Figure 2, are *separate* from each other. Similarly, optical waveguide 21 includes light diffusion reflecting *layers* 31a and 31b *thereon*, which, as can be seen in Figure 2, are also *separate* from each other. Additionally, Figures 1 and 2 also show how this embodiment includes a plurality of light sources (in this case two), on each of the plurality of optical waveguides. More specifically, optical waveguide 20 includes

a plurality of light sources (22a and 22b) and optical waveguide 21 also includes a plurality of light sources (23a and 23b).

In contrast, the device of the Paolini et al. reference lacks the claimed "plurality of separate light diffusion reflecting layers" defined in Claim 1. The Examiner appears to equate the lower surfaces of light guides 40, 41 and 42 of Paolini et al. with the claimed "light diffusion layers," such as the lower surface of light guide 41 of Figure 4 of Paolini et al., which includes grooves 48. However, grooves 48 of Paolini et al. are indentations formed within the bottom surface of the light guide, instead of being "a plurality of separate . . . layers formed thereon [i.e., on the light guide]" (emphasis added). Further, such indentations can not be considered as a plurality of "separate" layers. Accordingly, all of the features defined in independent Claim 1 are not disclosed in the Paolini et al. reference. Thus, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2, 3 and 27.

Additionally, Applicants also respectfully submit that the Paolini et al. reference fails to disclose a device that includes a plurality of light sources disposed one each of the plurality of optical waveguides. Instead of each light guide (40, 41, 42) of Figure 3 of Paolini et al. including a plurality of light sources, each light guide of Paolini et al. only includes a single light source (either 43 or 44 or 45). Thus, for this reason also, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2, 3 and 27.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Paolini et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,796,382 to Beeteson. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1, and therefore includes all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this §103 rejection be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1, and also because the Beeteson reference does not remedy the deficiencies noted above, nor was it relied upon as such.

Additionally, Applicants also separately traverse this §103 rejection because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the claimed "light source control system for sequentially intermittently turning on the light sources one at a time at a relatively high flashing frequency," as recited in Claim 4. Instead, in Beeteson, some of lamps 20 are turned off when the user is only using a portion of the display screen. Such control is not sequential or intermittent, nor can it be considered as being done at a relatively high flashing frequency. Thus, for these additional reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of Claim 4.

Finally, Applicants have also added new Claims 34-39. Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 34-37 are also allowable over the cited references because the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose the combination of all of the features defined in the new claims.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,

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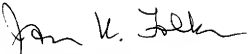
By 

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